THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIKAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) Views have been expressed at various fora indicating that the country is likely to face shortage of scientists in basic sciences, as a result of the declining interest in science amongst the young students, lack of sufficient incentives etc. Taking note of these concerns, the Government in order to attract students and researchers and to improve the quality of research has taken various measures by introducing a set of new initiatives. These include programmes like 'Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships': targeted at post-graduate talented students, "CSIR Diamond Jubilee Technology Awards": for Innovators for developing technology Of the highest benchmarks of competitiveness and excellence and for inventions of school students, "Women Scientists Scheme": instituted to provide opportunities to women scientists, 'Swamajayanti Fellowships': for outstanding young scientists, Postdoctoral fellowship in Biotechnology, Bioscience Awards for career development, 'Ramanna Fellowship': aimed to support performing scientists, Fund for improvement of infrastructure for S&T in Universities and Higher Educational institutions, etc. More recently Government has also announced two National Research Fellowships namely "Ramanujan Fellowships" to attract brilliant scientists from all over the world and "JC Bose Fellowships" to recognize active scientists who have proven outstanding track record. All these initiatives are aimed at providing encouragement to scientists. The Governments has also instituted several S&T programmes with other countries to build international academic and research linkages in pure sciences.

Schemes/projects from Uttar Pradesh

†2618. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent some schemes/projects concerning science and technology to the Central Government seeking their approval in the year 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said schemes are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Council of Science and Technology, UP, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent some schemes/projects concerning science and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

technology for approval of Central Government in the Department of Bio-Technology, out of which two projects pertain to the year 2004.

(b) These two proposals relate to (i) Demonstration & transfer of technology for bio-pesticides and (ii) Display, demonstration & training on Blue Green Algae (BGA) Bio-fertilizer technology.

(c) The proposals have been considered by the Department of bio-Technology and have not been found viable for financial support. The decision has been conveyed to the Council of Science and Technology, UP., Department of Science & Technology, U.P. Government.

Heavy rains in Mumbai

2619. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meteorological Department failed in pre warning the people of Mumbai about likely heavy rains highest in a day in the history of India; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to make weather forecast in India more trust worthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Regional Meteorological Center, Mumbai initially issued forecast for rather heavy (4-6 cm) to heavy (7-12 cm) rainfall on 25.7.2005. The same forecast was repeated on 26.7.2005 at 0600 hrs. (for Akashwani) and 1300 hrs. (General forecast). The forecast was subsequently upgraded to heavy (7-12 cm) to very heavy (above 12 cm) rainfall at 17.30 hrs. on 26.7.2005. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra was apprised of the likelyhood of heavy to very heavy rain in a meeting convened by him at 1600 hrs. on 26.7.2005.

Actual rainfall recorded up to 1430 hrs. on 26.7.2005 at Santa Cruz was only 1.9 cm. however, between 1430 hrs. to 1730 hrs. there was an unprecedented steep increase in rainfall and rainfall measurement at Santa Cruz at 1730 hrs. became 40 cm. which ultimately rose up to 94.4 cm. by 0830 hrs. on 27.7.2005. This was a highly localized rainfall event confined within a radius of about 20-25 km. over central and north Mumbai and took place within a short time period. Present level of scientific knowledge of the atmosphere, even at global level, cannot predict such localized rainfall